



Satellite image with enhanced low cloud-top temperatures (degrees C) for 7:15 a.m. EDT (NOAA)

### **Agricultural Weather Highlights - Monday - September 23, 2002**

- ***In the West***, very warm, dry weather continues to promote fieldwork, including summer crop harvesting and winter wheat planting. However, irrigation reserves remain limited by drought in many areas, and recently planted ***Northwestern*** wheat is in need of rain to ensure germination and proper autumn establishment.
- ***On the Plains***, cool, dry weather favors summer crop drydown and fieldwork, including harvest activities and winter wheat planting. Since sub-soil moisture is lacking in many areas due to long-term drought, wheat will need regular rainfall during the autumn establishment period.
- ***In the Corn Belt***, very cool weather is overspreading the region, accompanied by showers across ***northern areas***. Today's high temperatures are forecast to range from 50 to 60 degrees F in the ***northwestern Corn Belt***. Meanwhile, dry weather favors a return to winter wheat planting across the ***eastern Corn Belt***, following beneficial weekend rainfall.
- ***In the South***, showery weather lingers in the ***Gulf Coast region***, but warm, dry weather elsewhere is aiding summer crop maturation and harvesting. Tropical Storm Isidore is weakening over land after making landfall as a strong hurricane on Sunday night on the ***northern coast of Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula*** with maximum sustained winds near 125 m.p.h.

**Outlook:** Tropical Storm Isidore is forecast to turn slowly northward and re-emerge over the ***Gulf of Mexico***, and may pose a threat later in the week to the ***central or western Gulf Coast***. Meanwhile, tropical moisture ahead of the storm may fuel locally heavy showers across the ***Gulf Coast and Southeast***. Dry weather will prevail across much of the remainder of the nation from the ***Pacific Coast to the Northeast***, although a series of weak cold fronts will bring scattered showers to the ***northern Plains and upper Midwest***. The NWS 6-10 day outlook for September 28 - October 2 calls for above-normal precipitation in the ***Great Basin, northern Rockies, and northern High Plains***, but drier-than-normal condition in the ***central and eastern U.S.*** and the ***Southwest***. Above-normal temperatures are forecast in ***Florida*** and the ***Southwest***, but cooler-than-normal weather is expected elsewhere.

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